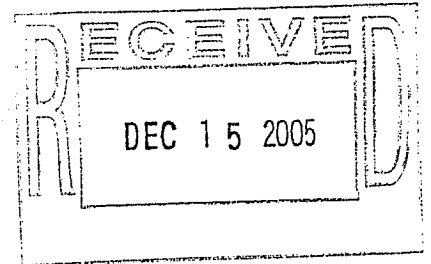




Advocates for Coe Park
P.O. Box 2611
Morgan Hill, CA 95038
(408) 887-3190
www.coeadvocates.org

December 13, 2005

Mehdi Morshed, Executive Director
California High Speed Rail Authority
925 L Street, Suite 1425
Sacramento, CA 95814

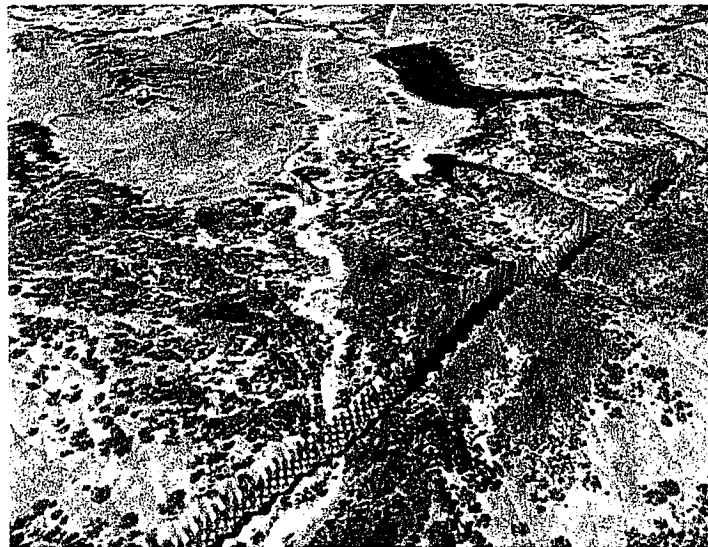


Re: Northern Crossing Study Area Scoping Process

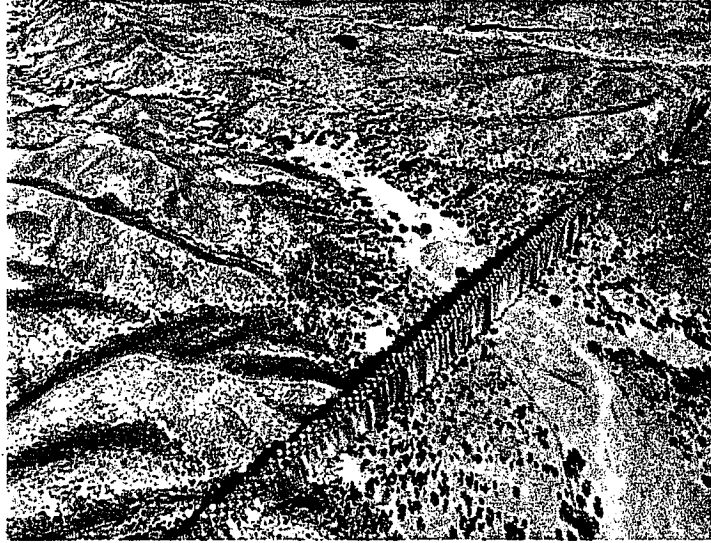
Dear Mr. Morshed:

The Advocates for Coe Park are encouraged that all High-Speed Rail routes through Henry W. Coe State Park were eliminated in the Final Program EIR/EIS. However, we remain very concerned that a route through the Isabel & San Antonio Valleys, just north of Coe Park, is still under serious consideration.

These high mountain valleys, in the center of the Mt. Hamilton Range, are an essential part of the eco-system of the region and would be destroyed by the construction of the "Northern Tunnel" alignment. Cuts up to 200 feet deep & earth fill causeways as high as 160 feet would be part of the permanent and ugly barrier across the heart of the range. Important wildlife corridors would be severed, and the remote landscape would be permanently scarred.

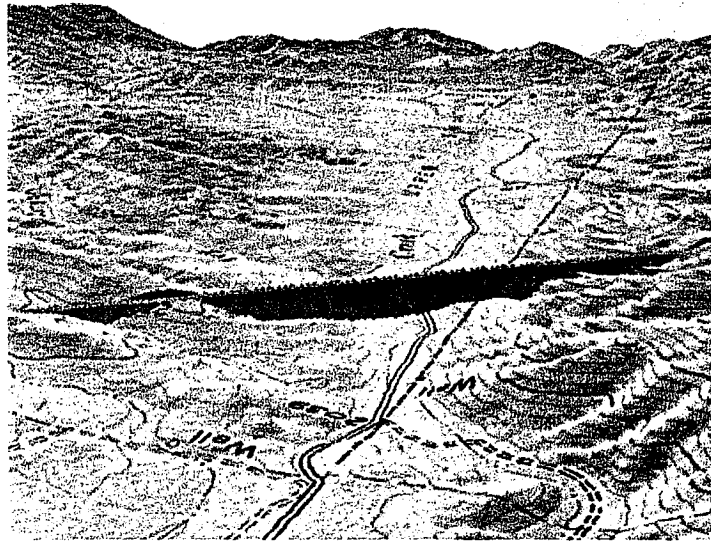


200' deep cut in the Isabel Valley



0.25 mile long 160' high causeway
crossing the Upper San Antonio Valley

The 0.25 mile long, 160' high causeway across the Upper San Antonio Valley will pass within 2 miles of the northern boundary, and one of the most remote portions of Henry W. Coe State Park.



Upper San Antonio Valley causeway with
H.W. Coe S.P. in background (green)

I have enclosed a DVD that contains visualizations of the destructive impact that the "Northern Tunnel" alignment would have on this remote & sensitive region.

The Advocates for Coe Park strongly urges that the High-Speed Rail Authority reject from consideration any Northern Crossing that does not follow an existing transportation corridor across the Mt. Hamilton Range. We also

recommend the Pacheco Pass alignment as the least environmentally
damaging alternative that will also assure the long-term economic success of
the High-Speed Rail System.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert D. Patrie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Patrie" clearly distinguishable.

Robert D. Patrie
Director